



**Title:** KRCP Watershed Incipients

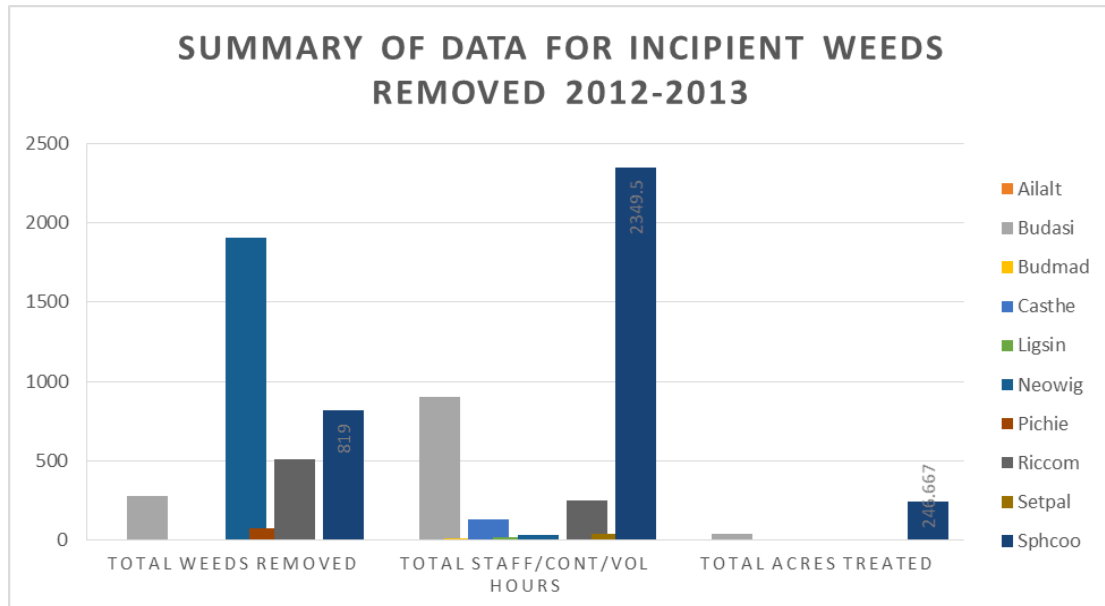
**Organization:** KRCP/Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development Inc.

**Award:** \$20,000

**Introduction:** Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development (GIRC&D), Inc. is a community-based 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to prudently use natural and human resources to improve Kaua'i county's environment, economy and social fabric. Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP) is a project of GIRC&D and its mission is to involve the public in protecting Kaua'i's diverse forest ecosystems by coordinating volunteers in service learning projects to conduct invasive weed removal in selected areas of northwestern Kaua'i. We also benefit from interagency coordination to function as a rapid response weed control service for the Kōke'e region. Our total budget for 2013 is \$222,000. HISC provided 9% of this amount.

#### **Achievements in FY13**

- **Deliverable 1** is the quantitative summary of weed control activities: KRCP transected a total of 120 acres: 40 were first pass for suppression and 80 were second pass for maintenance. A total of 3,067 weeds were treated with 332 staff hours, 1207 volunteer hours and 66.5 contributed labor hours. This work contributes to protecting as many as 20,000 ecosystem acres due to Kōke'e's location being a major public access to the Alaka'i and other surrounding forest reserves, and the nature of spreading of these weeds. Our latest control effort on the new incipient Hawkweed (first island record) showed a 85 % decrease from the first pass.



- **Deliverable 2** is the number of partner interactions that occurred and the importance of public relations. KRCP's work benefitted from 66.5 hours of contributed labor from partners including National Tropical Botanical Garden, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Extinction Prevention Program, and Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species. Many visiting scientists and various organizations have consulted us about our weed control methods. Kōke'e's leaseholders and hunters are more vigilant about invasive weeds and native plants. We educated



KRCP summer intern, Keali'i Serrano, prepares to hand saw a large Australian Tree Fern.

and trained six (6) interns and some 165 volunteers who gained worked with other agencies and experienced hands-on resource management in the forest. Our public relations exposure continues to grow at the Banana Poka forest education fair at Kōke'e. In partnership with KISC, we had a presence at the Garden Fair, Arbor Day and Kaua'i Farm Bureau Fair. We also had a presence at the 2013 Hawaii Conservation Conference held this summer on O'ahu. Through these public events we were able to provide educational outreach on invasive weed species to an indeterminate amount of people both on and off island. Our website and blog provide additional exposure and interaction.

- **Deliverable 3** is taking advantage of historical resources for determining risk assessment. We have been conferring with a leaseholder knowledgeable in Kōke'e's vegetation history to determine the invasiveness of *Camelia sinense* based on its time and places of original plantings in Koke'e and its current spread. It's considered very invasive in some ecosystems in the world. We are also exploring the possibility of controlling it by cutting, processing and selling it as a wild-grown tea, and thus providing additional income to our program.

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### **Additional Information**

Over the past few years, we had noticed that the deer were eating one of our major incipients: privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Initially it seemed like the deer might keep the privet under control. However, a leaseholder alerted us to the fact that the deer population has dropped drastically in one area of the park and that the privet is taking off again. We are assessing this situation.

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